

and our community. I wish him nothing but continued success in his retirement and future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL ROBERT
PREISS

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Colonel Robert Preiss, an American hero who has devoted his life to serving our country.

During his career spanning over 30 years, Colonel Robert Preiss has proven his ability to successfully manage organizations and deliver results to the most critical problems facing our nation. He began his military career with his enlistment in the Texas Army National Guard. Throughout his career, Colonel Preiss has worked on an array of important projects, from shaping our policies in Iraq as Deputy Chief in the National Guard Affairs Office of United States Forces-Iraq, to drafting recommendations for our Reserve Forces as part of the Reserve Forces Policy Board. Through his service, he has furthered U.S. military objectives both at home and abroad.

Colonel Preiss has been decorated with numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star. In September of 2013, he received the Distinguished Service Medal from the National Guard Association of the United States to recognize his research into the efficiency and efficacy of the National Guard and Reserve. Our nation is safer today in part due to the work and patriotism of Colonel Preiss.

Colonel Robert Preiss, thank you for your patriotism and selfless service to the United States. As you are surely aware, our nation is proud of all you have accomplished during your career. Thank you (Mahalo nui loa) for your service to our country, and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD KENDELL

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Brad Kendell for his tenacity and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Brad Kendell is a Pinellas County native, from Clearwater. His passion for sailing with his father at the Clearwater Yacht Club began when he was just 7 years old. However, in 2003, his life drastically changed when he lost both his legs in a horrific plane crash with his father and flight instructor.

Mr. Kendell coped with his injury by meeting with other disabled sailors and soon discovered that his disability could not stop him from pursuing his true passion of sailing. He began to sail competitively this year and has already won a world championship. This qualifies him to represent the U.S. in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio this summer.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge Mr. Kendell's courage after a horrific accident and ask that this body join me in wishing Mr.

Kendell the best of luck in the games this summer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
MINNETONKA BOYS TENNIS TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minnetonka High School Boys Tennis team on their Minnesota State Team Championship.

The Skippers had come up just short in the previous two years, but this year they would not be denied. Although they were seeded fourth out of eight teams in the tournament, the Skippers showed grit and determination as they upset the top two teams on their way to the school's first tennis championship since 1974. They upset Rochester Century in a closely contested final, winning four matches to three.

Mr. Speaker, in a sport like tennis where success in a match is a combination of singles and doubles, it is especially noteworthy to recognize how this group of young men worked together to achieve their goal. These student athletes showed that together they were greater than the sum of their parts.

The families, teachers, friends, and the entire community are very proud of the Minnetonka High School Boys Tennis team both on the court and in the classroom. Congratulations.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON
RENEGADES RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Washington Renegades Rugby Football Club. Founded in 1998, the Renegades are the first rugby club in the United States to actively recruit gay players, and are a founding member of International Gay Rugby (IGR), an association that today is comprised of over 70 gay and gay-supportive rugby clubs worldwide.

The Renegades represent Washington, D.C. in Division III and Division IV rugby. The club's Division III side is the three-time defending champions of the Mid-Atlantic Conference Central Division, having reached the national quarter/semi-finals in 2014. The club's Division IV side has also made two consecutive playoff appearances.

Over this past Memorial Day weekend, the Washington Renegades finished the 2016 Bingham Cup Tournament in Nashville, Tennessee as the most successful club overall in attendance. The Bingham Cup is the Championship of IGR, and is named for gay rugby player Mark Bingham, of the San Francisco Fog Rugby Football Club, who lost his life on September 11, 2001. Bingham, along with fellow passengers and crew of United Flight 93, is widely credited with preventing the hijackers from reaching their intended target.

Fielding three teams in three separate divisions, the Renegades A side (the Blues) reached the final four of the main competition—the Mark Bingham Cup—losing in the semifinal 15–5 to the eventual champions, the Melbourne Chargers from Melbourne, Australia. The Renegades B side (the Reds) won their division, defeating the Boston Ironsides 56–0 in the final to take the Mark Bingham Shield. The Renegades C side—affectionately called the “Silver” side due the age of some of its players—went to the finals of its competition, losing 12–10 to the Lost Souls of Dallas, Texas in the Challenger Cup Final. The Renegades are already looking forward to another season in USA Rugby competition this fall as well as to the next Bingham Cup in 2018.

The Renegades are more than just exceptional athletes; they are also exceptional citizens. They volunteer with such programs as Food and Friends, preparing hundreds of Thanksgiving meals for people living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. They have held school supply drives and holiday toy drives, and have donated Nook electronic readers to schoolchildren. They have conducted rugby clinics for youth in the District of Columbia, and were featured in a series of after-school activities dedicated to having dads or father representatives participate in sports drills and related activities with their children. The Renegades have been recognized by the D.C. Mayor and D.C. Council for their athletic achievement and charitable activities, and by the U.S. Department of the Interior for their efforts in cleaning and maintaining the original Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending the Washington Renegades and wishing them continued success in the important work they do of modeling sporting excellence and breaking down barriers on the field, and serving the community off the field. The Washington Renegades are amateurs in the truest sense of the word, for the word “amateur” derives from the Latin word for “love.” The Renegades do what they do not for money or glory, but for love—love for their teammates, love for their game, and love for the city and country they call home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
ROSCOE BROWN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of an American hero, Dr. Roscoe Brown, who will be greatly missed by all those inspired by him. Dr. Brown flew combat missions during World War II as a member of the prestigious Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces. As a proud sponsor of the bill that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, our highest civilian honor, to the Tuskegee Airmen in 2007, I was humbled to meet Dr. Brown who embodied the best that our nation has to offer.

Our troops at home and abroad make the greatest sacrifices every day to defend our country. What makes the story of Dr. Brown